Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (previously presented) A business method for reducing non-value-added data activity across a plurality of distributed business departments, the method comprising:

populating a data structure with data sets generated at each of the plurality of distributed business departments;

eliminating data gaps, duplications and inconsistencies within the data structure;

defining access, ownership, management, data source, data control and data dependencies attributes for each data set within the data structure;

aligning each of the distributed business departments' business processes and corresponding data requirements to the data structure data sets based on the attributes defined for each data set;

updating the alignment in response to changes in the business processes and corresponding data requirements of the plurality of business departments as well as changes in the attributes defined for each data set; and

defining a retention period attribute for a data set wherein the data set is deleted from the data structure upon expiration of the defined retention period.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising compiling a glossary summarizing the data sets and corresponding attributes wherein the glossary is provided to the plurality of distributed business departments to facilitate the step of aligning each of the distributed business departments' business processes and corresponding data requirements to the data structure.

3.   (canceled)

4.   (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of defining an update frequency for a data set and updating content and attributes for the data set according to the defined update frequency.

5-8   (canceled)